



# News

From the Office of Mayor Gregory A. Ballard

## City of Indianapolis

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2009

### Mayor Focuses on Livability in 2009 State of the City Address

On Saturday, Feb. 21, Mayor Greg Ballard gave his second State of the City Address to a packed crowd at Christel House Academy, a Mayor-Sponsored Charter School on the city's south side.

Mayor Ballard acknowledged the financial and economic challenges gripping our nation and the fiscal and infrastructure crisis our city faces, and he committed the city to making decisions based on the long-term best interests of taxpayers by working creatively and collaboratively to meet challenges head-on.

The Mayor's speech focused primarily on livability.

"With an eye on the future, we are working now to make Indianapolis America's Most Livable Big City - a community that is safe, prosperous, a coveted destination for the best and



On Feb. 21, Mayor Greg Ballard gave his second State of the City Address. Read the full transcript [here](#).

the brightest, and a sustainable landmark with strong neighborhoods and efficient local government." said Mayor Ballard.

Making Indianapolis America's

Most Livable Big City means safety on our streets and in our neighborhoods and strengthening neighborhoods throughout the city; it means gaining economic opportunity from a strong business climate; it means good schools for our children to prepare them for full lives; it means a sustainable and healthy environment; and it means a city and a government that is affordable, efficient and organized for the 21st Century.

"What makes life good is a combination of ordinary things - safe neighborhoods, good schools, efficient services. But a big city that gets the ordinary things right can be an extraordinary place to live. Indianapolis can be that city." said Ballard.

For a full transcript of the Mayor's speech please visit our website: [www.indy.gov/mayor](http://www.indy.gov/mayor) ●

### SustainIndy's Energy Retrofit Project Could Mean Long-Term Cost Savings

The City of Indianapolis is one step closer to transforming some of its worst energy hog facilities into leading-edge, energy efficient facilities.

When the Office of Sustainability was cre-

ated in October, 2008, staff immediately began studying several years' worth of gas and electric bills for city-owned buildings and developed a list of facilities that would be good candidates for

energy retrofits.

The office released an RFI to identify companies with experience performing this type of work and garnered attention and responses from 15 businesses with experience per-

forming energy retrofits for local schools and government entities.

Last month, the Office of Sustainability initiated the next project phase

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by releasing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for facility improvements through guaranteed energy savings contracts. Responses are due by noon on March 25, 2009.

Three energy service providers will be invited to bid on energy retrofit work at selected city-owned facilities this spring – work that will be accomplished through a guaranteed energy savings contract. This arrangement guarantees that savings from the installation of energy conservation measures will be used to pay for the work rather than incurring up-front capital costs for the city.

Energy retrofit work typically includes upgrading lighting, mechanical, and building envelope systems. The overarching goal of this specific project is to reduce energy consumption and demand while minimizing future operational and maintenance costs; however, maintaining consistent levels of comfort and functionality with each of the selected buildings is a primary consideration.

The RFQ is available by visiting the Purchasing Division section of [www.indy.gov](http://www.indy.gov).



For more information, visit  
[www.sustainindy.org](http://www.sustainindy.org)

## About the Office of Sustainability...

Mayor Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October of 2008.

SustainIndy is an innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health.

Its efforts are designed to aggressively move Indianapolis forward in making it one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest.

## Mayor's Night Out Decatur Township • March 3



**Citizens are proud of their city, but they  
live in their neighborhoods.**

**WHO:** Mayor Greg Ballard and City  
Department Directors/Leaders

**WHAT:** Mayor's Night Out  
Question and Answer Session

**WHERE:** Decatur Township;  
5650 Mann Road

**WHEN:** March 3, 2009; 6–7 p.m.

For more information, please contact  
Carlos May at 327-5216 or  
[cmay@indygov.org](mailto:cmay@indygov.org).

# Mayor's Youth Council Holds First Meeting of 2009

## *Meeting Focused on Team Building and Servant Leadership*



Mayor Ballard and members of the Mayor's Youth Council met on February 20 for an orientation workshop. Council members will meet regularly and engage in a variety of projects including neighborhood cleanups, mentoring and helping homeless teens.

On Saturday, February 21, twenty youth representing 11 Marion County high schools came together at Garfield Park Arts Center, for the kick-off of the Mayor's Youth Council.

Mayor Greg Ballard, Deputy Mayor Olgen Williams, Annie Smith, Marion County Coordi-

nator for United Way's Youth as Resources and Pegg Anderson, LCSW Medical Social Worker for St. Vincent's Home Care were on hand to talk with council members about the importance of servant leadership and the importance of being involved in the community.

The Mayor's Youth Council provides Marion County high school aged students with an opportunity to be the youth voice in government.

Each student was selected based upon their leadership potential, school activities and community

involvement.

During the orientation, students participated in exercises that emphasized the importance of teamwork, integrity and making one's community better through giving back.

Many of the students had projects that they wanted to see the Council involved with, such as neighborhood cleanups, mentoring and teen homelessness.

Although the Council represents youth 14-18 years of age, they have a collective and mature mission in common....to give back to the Indianapolis community.

These are not the leaders of tomorrow, but rather the leaders of today! ●



At the first meeting of the Mayor's Youth Council, council members participated in team building exercises and brainstormed project ideas. The Mayor's Youth Council represents youth 14-18 years of age.



# Mayor Hosts 8th Annual Celebration of Diversity Awards Ceremony



*Representatives from Community Health Network pose for a picture with the Mayor after accepting the Sam H. Jones Award at the 8th Annual Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards Ceremony.*

Last month Mayor Greg Ballard hosted the 8th Annual Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards Ceremony.

The Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Award recognizes businesses and organizations that encourage, embrace and celebrate differences that foster a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

"During these challenging economic times, our city is being recognized as one poised to weather the storm better than many of our peer cities," said Mayor Ballard. "This is due in large part to our commitment to supporting and celebrating diversity – our commitment to 'diversify diversity'."

Recognition for the Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards is based on stellar performance in all or one of the following four areas: Workforce Diversity, Development, Community Relations and Leadership.

Following is a list of the award recipients and a brief description of their accomplishments.

## **Sam H. Jones Award**

This special award, which represents the "Best of the Best," named in honor of the first president of Indianapolis Urban League and a tireless advocate for peace, justice and understanding in Indianapolis – is the top award given and recognizes a business or organization with the strongest performance in all four categories.

### **Award Recipient:**

#### **Community Health Network**

Community Health Network goes to great lengths in its efforts to create and nourish a diverse workforce. Community's leadership strongly believes that diversity among employees helps the network to better reflect the population it serves and provides the organization with improved understanding of its patient/family population.

The network's leadership strives to create a positive culture and professional development opportunities to make Community a satisfying place to achieve one's career goals.

Community leaders know that diversity is a key to the success of the organization's mission of serving the health care needs of all.

## **Development in Diversity Award**

This award is presented to a company or organization that excels in providing opportunities for diversity education and communication within the organization.

### **Award Recipient:**

#### **Barnes & Thornburg LLP**

A number of years ago, the firm's management fashioned and approved a Diversity Action Plan which is now a living document, addressing innovations for recruitment and retention, mentoring, professional skills development programs, and community involvement. The firm's Diversity Committee, which includes representatives from all of its offices, regularly advises firm management on diversity issues, provides career development coaching for women and minorities, develops flexible work options for legal professionals, and serves as a liaison among personnel functions, the recruiting committee, and firm management.

## **Community Relations Award**

This award is presented to a company or organization that excels in promoting activities which encourage and support diversity in the community.

### **Award Recipient:**

#### **Simon Property Group**

Simon Property Group makes diversity a focus and a priority by providing corporate

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contributions and volunteers from among its employees for events such as the Circle City Classic, the NAACP, the Indianapolis Urban League, Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots, Dress for Success, and the United Way's Back Pack Attack, and by investing in the future of promising minority youth through the Simon Youth Foundation.

#### **Leadership in Diversity Award**

This award is presented to a company or organization that excels in implementing a vision that supports diversity strategies throughout the organization.

#### **Award Recipient: Turner Construction Company**

Turner Construction Company's diversity mission statement encourages the retention

and development of a diverse and highly qualified workforce, a company culture that mobilizes employees around shared goals, and a work environment where employees can contribute creative ideas, seek challenges, assume leadership roles and continue to focus on meeting and exceeding business and personal objectives.

Additionally, Turner has implemented a Diversity Action Council made up of a cross section of employees from across the country.

#### **Workforce Diversity Award**

This award is presented to a company or organization that has made great strides in the diversity representation in the workplace.

#### **Award Recipient: Veolia Water Indianapolis, LLC**

Veolia Water embraces diversity and has an active recruitment program that takes steps to ensure that persons are recruited, hired, assigned and promoted without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, sex, veteran's status, age or disability including, but not limited to: providing bilingual agents in its customer service center; working actively with specialized minority recruitment firms to fill open employment opportunities; targeting minority participants for its apprenticeship program; and providing a revamped new employee orientation to better address cultural diversity issues, particularly among field services employees. ●

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## **City and UWCI Bring ReadUP Program to 2 Indianapolis Schools**

The City of Indianapolis has partnered with United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI) to implement a community school model, like ReadUP, in two Indianapolis schools.

The community school model enables teachers to monitor a student's academic performance as well as a student's participation in other in-school programming like tutoring, health-related activities or recreation.

As a result, teachers are better equipped to develop individualized plans and recommend specific interventions for each student.

"The education level expected of children reflects the priority of its citizens and its government, and the investment in our community's future be-

gins with the students of Indianapolis," said Mayor Greg Ballard. "I believe every student needs our attention in order to make sure they are achieving their potential."

Challenge Foundation Academy, a Mayor-Sponsored Charter School in the Meadows, and Lynwood Elementary School in Decatur Township were selected to participate.

ReadUP is a program that pairs volunteers from the community in elementary schools to tutor students in reading. Tutors volunteer one hour per week with students to enhance skills in vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

A key benefit to this arrangement is the personal connection each coordinator has with both the students and the teachers.

This close relationship allows the coordinator to assist teachers by providing information about and access to both academic and non-academic services needed by the individual students.

The City of Indianapolis will invest \$180,000 during the 2009 calendar year and UWCI will coordinate the programming.

Each school will receive on Community School coordinator, who is employed by a community organization and who manages the program. Coordinators hired for the project will be employees of Forest Manor Multi-Service Center and Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center.

Both schools still have tutoring spots available. If interested, please contact United Way at 925-READ or [readup@uwci.org](mailto:readup@uwci.org) or visit [www.uwci.org](http://www.uwci.org). ●

## City Broadcasts First Spanish-Language TV Program

Last month, Mayor Greg Ballard announced the launch of a new Spanish-language television program.

The program is set to air weekly and will provide up-to-date information on events and issues happening in Indianapolis.

"Latinos are a vital part of our city's culture and community, and I want to make sure they are included both in receiving updates on how government is working and in knowing

where and how to give us input on ways we can better-serve our entire community," said Mayor Ballard.

The new Spanish-language show was created to encourage Indianapolis' Hispanic/Latino population to utilize all of the city resources available to them.

Many Hispanic citizens do not take full advantage of available city services due to limited English-language skills.

"We need the participation

of all of our citizens to make Indianapolis the most livable city in the United States. I encourage you to tune in to this program every week and find out what's happening in Indy," said Mayor Ballard.

Citizens who subscribe to Brighthouse can view the program on channel 17, Comcast subscribers can view it on channel 28, and AT&T customers can view it on channel 99. ●

## Mayor Hosts Charter School Community Fair



*Last week, Mayor Greg Ballard hosted a Mayor-sponsored charter school community fair to provide information about the schools to interested parents, children and community leaders.*

Mayor Ballard hosted the first Mayor-sponsored charter school community fair on Monday, February 16 at the ArtsGarden at Circle Centre Mall.

All 17 of the Mayor's charter schools were represented and on hand to pass out information

to interested parents, children and community members.

The event was a great success, with an estimated 500 parents and children visiting the fair.

The fair began at 11:30 with opening remarks by Mayor Ballard, then a brief speech by the new Indiana Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Tony Bennett.

Throughout the two-hour event, performances were given by the Herron High School choir, Indianapolis Metropolitan High School's dance team, Andrew J. Brown Academy's cheerleaders and the new drum line at Fall Creek Academy.

"Charter schools provide great educational opportunities for Indianapolis school children, and I'm excited to offer the community a chance to learn more about what our charter schools have to offer," said Mayor Ballard. "Each of these schools takes a unique approach to education, and I hope both parents and students will take advantage of the opportunity to explore whether charter schools

could be a good fit for them."

If you were unable to attend the community fair, but would like more information regarding Mayor-sponsored charter schools, please visit our website at [www.indygov.org/mayor/charter](http://www.indygov.org/mayor/charter). ●



*Dr. Tony Bennett, the new Indiana Superintendent of Schools spoke at the first Mayor-sponsored charter school community fair. An estimated 500 parents and children stopped by to learn about charter schools.*



## DPW - Working For Indianapolis Residents

*Crews Put to the Test this Winter as 12.5 Inches of Snow Fall on the City*



*DPW crews coordinate salt truck loading and snow removal efforts to combat the largest storm event recorded in Indianapolis in 13 years.*

"I think we've been put to the test this winter season in showing our commitment to customers," said DPW Director David Sherman. "Through extreme snow, potential flooding, potholes and high wind storms, our operations teams have consistently met the challenge. I'm proud of the effort that the men and women of DPW have displayed."

Beginning a gauntlet of events that tested the fortitude of DPW's work crews, the month of January marked the largest storm event recorded in Indianapolis in 13 years. The 6<sup>th</sup>

largest storm in Hoosier history unceremoniously dumped a 12.5 inch blanket of snow across the city in a matter of hours. In the face of harsh weather conditions, the men and women of DPW rallied to clear snow from every accessible residential street in the city in the most expansive snow removal campaign ever recorded. Making multiple passes over approximately 8,000 lane miles of city streets, crews removed over 227,000 lane miles of snow from city roadways.

"I live on Cameron and their work...was great," said Garfield

area resident Larry Webber. "I can also verify that they did a great job on Allen, Manker, Yoke and Berwyn. Our streets are quite narrow and this makes their job difficult."

"We work for Indianapolis residents," said Director Sherman. "City residents have done a tremendous job in stepping up to do their parts. In order to overcome many of the issues that we face, we must all continue to work together in a collaborative effort." ●



## Announcing the 2009 Indy Homeless Connect

The City of Indianapolis and the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention announced in February that the 2009 Indy Homeless Connect will be held on Friday, March 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Indiana Convention Center.

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, his wife Winnie, and Sharon O'Brien, wife of Indiana Pacers head coach and Coalition board member Jim O'Brien, will serve as the honorary co-chairs for the fourth annual event.

"Indianapolis is full of com-

passionate people who come together to pick up their neighbors and help those who need it most," said Mayor Ballard. "Indy Homeless Connect is about coming together for the greater good, and we're very excited to take part in this important event."

This one-day event offers dozens of core services to homeless clients such as acute medical care, food, mental health counseling, legal advice, employment guidance, and housing assistance - all under one

roof. Indy Homeless Connect also provides non-essential "extra care" services, like free phone calls, massages, books and haircuts.

Last year, more than 450 volunteers and 50 organizations served the needs of over 600 homeless neighbors. Residents, businesses, service providers or charitable organizations interested in volunteering or making donations to Indy Homeless Connect should visit [www.chipindy.org](http://www.chipindy.org) or call 317-472-7640. ●

## Municipal Gardens Celebrates 50 Years of Junior Basketball



Mayor Ballard prepares to throw the jump ball at the Municipal Gardens 50 year anniversary celebration of Junior Basketball.

Hundreds of Indianapolis residents and visitors spent a recent Saturday afternoon catching up with the coaches and mentors who created the legacy of Municipal Gardens Junior Basketball at its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, the family center at 1831 Lafayette Road hosted a reunion for coaches and players and an open house for

visitors to learn more about this fantastic program. Many of the center's volunteer coaches were youth participants in the program and have been coaching for 20 years or more.

The 165 current participants are divided into three age groups – 8-9, 10-11, and 12-13. Registration fees cover a T-shirt, referees for the games and a trophy at season's end. Willie Gupton, Municipal

Gardens' park manager who grew up playing at the center, said the league's volunteer coaches are men who played at Municipal Gardens during the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s who are now professionals inspiring a new generation of children.

"It gives young people a chance to be around solid role models in a safe setting and learn not only basketball skills but also life skills," said Gupton. "The beauty of our program is that it's grassroots – it's a group of men getting together to work with young people to improve their quality of life."

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard participated in the event by tossing a jump ball in the 1 p.m. league play-off game, as Indiana Pacers mascot Bowser made a surprise visit. The event featured remarks from past Gardens staff, coaches and players, including a History of Gardens Basketball from founder Jack Evans and Eric Gordon Sr., father of Los Angeles Clippers starting shooting guard Eric Gordon.

For more information about Municipal Gardens, call (317) 327-7190.



Mayor Ballard poses with junior basketball players at Municipal Gardens. The anniversary event was a reunion for coaches and players and an open house for visitors to learn more about the basketball program.

## Indiana Photographic Society to exhibit "Beautiful Indiana"

The Indiana Photographic Society will present the third annual showing of *Through the Lens: Beautiful Indiana* March 13 through April 3 at the Garfield Park Arts Center. The opening

reception will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. March 13, 2009.

The exhibit will feature work by the Society, an Indiana group which uses old and new technology to produce and promote

fine art photography.

The exhibit will freely interpret "Beautiful Indiana" with wonderful creativity.

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Expect landscapes, animals and birds, manmade structures, and whatever else catches the eye of the photographer.

Founded in 2006 by Jay Allen, the Society meets weekly at the Garfield Park Arts Center. It provides opportunities for members to take part in photo excursions and educational programs, show in exhibitions, and to share new work.

"The partnership between the Society and the Arts Center helps us bring a form of fine art to the general public through our photography exhibits," said Society President Anthony Carlino. "We hope to continue the relationship with Garfield Parks Arts Center and continue to grow the Society."

Please come to the Garfield Park Arts Center to meet Society members and capture a bit of Indiana's artistic spirit as you

take a look "Through the Lens."

Admission is free. The Arts Center is open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The Arts Center is located at 2432 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46203, in the heart of Garfield Park. For more information, call (317) 327-PARK or visit [www.indyparks.org](http://www.indyparks.org). •

## Holliday Park 5-Mile Trail Run

Looking for a different kind of race? Don't mind getting dirty? The Holliday Park Trail Run, scheduled for Saturday March 21 – rain or shine – is a five-mile course where runners

and hikers of all ages will run, jump, climb, walk or scramble along the trails of Holliday Park and Marott Park.

Competitors will be challenged by uneven terrain, hills, obstacles,

ravines and the banks of the White River.

Participants hunt for special treasures along the course that may be redeemed for prizes during the post-race celebration.

Children may participate in a Tot Trot or a one-mile Trail Run. Proceeds will support programs at Holliday Park and the Nature Center. •

## Going GREEN

The Trail Run is "going green" this year, and has made some environmentally friendly improvements.

Reusable goody bags will be distributed at the race, all the refuse in the tent will be composted or recycled, and race entry forms will be printed on 30% post-consumer waste recycled paper.

### Here are some ways you can help:

- Bring your water bottle to reduce the amount of trash at water stations
- Bring old running shoes to be donated to the Wheeler Mission and the Julian Center
- Car pool, ride your bike or walk to the event



### Who:

The five-mile Trail Run/Hike is open to all runners and hikers, ages 10 and older. For participating parents, supervision will be provided during the five-mile Trail Run. Children must be 2 years and older. Reservation required. Limit 50 children.

### When:

Saturday, March 21, 2009 rain, sleet, snow or shine. Runners and hikers will begin at 9:30 a.m.

### Where:

Holliday Park, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. Race Headquarters will be in the Nature Center located in the northeast corner of the park.

### Fees:

Five-mile Trail Run/Hike (includes T-shirt): \$20  
Five-mile Trail Run/Hike (no T-shirt): \$16  
Cross Country or Track Team Member (no T-shirt): \$14  
Five-mile Trail Run/Hike Race Day Registration: \$25

Visit [www.hollidaypark.org](http://www.hollidaypark.org) or call (317) 327-7180 for more information or register online at [www.tuxbro.com](http://www.tuxbro.com).

## GET INVOLVED! Sign up for the Great Indy Cleanup

Springtime is near and that means the Great Indy Cleanup, the largest cleanup program in Indianapolis, is right around the corner.

The Great Indy Cleanup provides communities with the tools to rid their streets, walkways and alleys of obtrusive eyesores left behind by litter and illegal dumping. The program runs each weekend from April through October. To schedule your neighborhood cleanup, please visit [http://www.kibi.org/programs/litter\\_cleanup/gic/index.htm](http://www.kibi.org/programs/litter_cleanup/gic/index.htm).

Each year, the Great Indy Cleanup kicks-off with a city-wide cleanup involving thou-

sands of volunteers, along with Department of Public Works (DPW) crews, trash trucks and dumpsters.

Neighborhoods are provided gloves, trash bags, dumpsters and any other donated products to help make their cleanup a success. This year's kick-off event will take place on Saturday, April 25.

Events like the Great Indy Cleanup help make Indianapolis a better place to live and illustrate Mayor Greg Ballard's commitment to making the city more sustainable.

In 2008 alone, thousands of volunteers removed more than two million pounds of litter in

Indianapolis, through 350 neighborhood cleanups, as a part of the program.

The Great Indy Cleanup is a program of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc., in partnership with the City of Indianapolis, DPW, Republic Services, Inc. and South Side Landfill.

The *Great Indy Cleanup* is part of the Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program, sponsored nationally by Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

Indianapolis is just one of more than 200 communities across the nation supporting the Great American Cleanup campaign. •

## Be Prepared for Severe Weather



*March 16–22 is Severe Weather Awareness Week. Are you prepared?*

The week of March 16 through the 22<sup>nd</sup> has been designated as Severe Weather Awareness week.

This event offers us an opportunity to remind residents of the potential for severe weather and how to prepare and respond to these types of events.

Preparedness begins with being aware and alert to the

changes in the weather. When severe weather is forecast, individuals should stay tuned to local media for updates and information.

A NOAA weather radio is a great way to stay informed because it has a battery backup and should be on 24/7 to sound the alarm.

Severe weather can strike quickly and the impact can be devastating. Individuals, families and businesses should be prepared for an emergency by having a plan, building a kit and staying informed. The following tips can help:

### Stay Tuned for Storm Watches & Warnings...

- Listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information
- Know what a WATCH or WARNING means:

**Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for a particular severe weather hazard within the next several hours.

**Warning:** Issued when a particular severe weather hazard is imminent or occurring. Take immediate action to protect life and property.

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### **When a WARNING Is Issued...**

If you are inside, go to the safe place you picked to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. The tornado may be approaching your area.

Pick a place where family members could gather if a tornado is headed your way. It could be your basement or, if there is no basement, a center hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest floor. Keep this place uncluttered.

If you are in a high-rise building, you may not have enough time to go to the lowest floor. Pick a place in a hallway in the center of the building.

If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.

If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and

head for safety (as above).

### **Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit**

- First aid kit and essential medications
- Canned food and can opener
- At least three gallons of water per person
- Protective clothing, bedding, or sleeping bags
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries
- Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members
- Don't forget the family pets in your planning. Have I.D., a crate/carrier, leash, food & water available for them as well
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water if authorities advise you to do so

(Remember, you'll need a professional to turn natural gas service back on.)

### **After the Severe Weather Passes...**

- Watch out for fallen power lines and stay out of the damaged area
- Listen to the radio for information and instructions
- Use a flashlight to inspect your home for damage
- Do not use candles at any time

For further information go to the following websites; [The National Weather Service](#), or [The American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Debbi Fletcher, Marion County Emergency Management at [dfletcher@indygov.org](mailto:dfletcher@indygov.org) or 317-327-7501. ●

## **Mayor Hosts Employee Performance Awards**



*Members of the Mayor's Action Center accept their award at the first Mayor's Performance Awards Ceremony, hosted by Mayor Greg Ballard.*

On February 23, Mayor Greg Ballard hosted the first Mayor's Performance Awards to honor city employees. Recipients of the 2008 Mayor's Performance Awards were nominated by their department directors for having made a significant contribution improving the per-

formance of City/County Government and/or making government more efficient, resulting in cost savings and enhanced services to taxpayers.

Following are the names of each recipient and a brief description of their accomplishments.

### **Linda Ahlbrand, Department of Metropolitan Development**

Linda's reorganization of staff positions and functions in the Zoning Division of the Department of Metropolitan Development amounted to a \$30,000.00 savings to the city while improving city services.

Linda was able to reorganize staff function eliminating a position and upgrading other positions to help retain and maintain a qualified workforce.

By Linda's recommended staff changes, the zoning division redeveloped their operations and now provides better customer service and experienced employees who can provide the best information to the citizens of Indianapolis.

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**Scott Mason, Office of Code Compliance**

Scott has achieved an increase in unit performance by making operational changes and has improved customer satisfaction with the services provided by the Building Inspections Unit.

Scott implemented an extensive training and certification program for all building inspectors to help build a cohesive foundation and provide citizens with increased customer service and an increased knowledge base. Scott put into place active performance measures to lead his team to success.

With the focus on training and performance, the team, who had only accomplished approximately 50 percent of all requested or assigned inspections in early 2007, was able to report approximately 81 percent just one year later.

Scott and his team have been able to transform the Building Inspections Unit into an effective and efficient city function.

**Chris Harrell, Department of Metropolitan Development**

Chris has shown a relentless effort to handle the Brownfield Program for the city. Chris has worked to find resources to assist with the remediation of properties that have often been left blighted and abandoned by previous owners.

Chris was instrumental in the redevelopment of the former Ertel Manufacturing site located in the Martindale Brightwood Neighborhood. He was able to stretch the taxpayer dollar by receiving over \$600,000 worth of grants for the project.

He was also able to locate

insurance policies on the property to reimburse the city for all other expenses used for the redevelopment of the property.

Chris has been able to apply the same procedure for Insurance Cost Recovery for other city redevelopments allowing the city to do more with less.

**Imelda Oglesby, Department of Public Works**

Imelda's positive attitude and commitment to helping the citizens of Indianapolis is exemplary. Imelda was the primary contact for residents and businesses affected by the closure and rehabilitation of the 82<sup>nd</sup> St. Bridge over White River. She stayed in constant contact with those affected to keep them informed of the progress.

Imelda also has represented the city by coordinating actions needed to correct problems identified in the "Star Watch" feature of the Indianapolis Star.

She has taken the initiative to improve customer satisfaction and by providing "best-in-class" customer service to the citizens of Indianapolis.

**Business Services Team, Department of Public Works**

*Alice Droeger, Darrell Fishel, Kimberly Frye, Kathy Hargraves, Nekole Hulitt, Jane Regensburg*

The DPW Business Services Team dramatically improved processes and enhanced revenue for programs administered within the department.

They collectively utilized three different data sets to include the city's GIS function to identify customers connected to DPW services that were not paying for service.

The group's action accounted for an estimated 2 to 4 million

dollar increase in sewer revenues.

They also were able to bring the application review process for the Financial Assistance Plan for STEP in house, decreasing the response time from 4 to 8 weeks to no more than 2 days.

The Business Services Team continues to make recommendations and provide actions for change to better serve and provide core services to the citizens on Indianapolis.

**Mayor's Action Center Team**

*Jessica Taylor, Pauline Berry, Vanessa Miller, Deborah Cadick, Tawone Gillespie, Vivienne Thomas, Joyce McLemore-Sears, Monica Jefferson, Stephanie Pettigrew, Jeanette Jones, Clara Bova, Nancy Ellis, Estevan Alfaro, Michael Rowland, Pauline Talbot, Brenda Woodson, Sparkle Beech, Tameeka Baldwin, Stephanie Bell, Kita Evans*

The Mayor's Action Center (MAC) Team was able to significantly improve performance on IndyStat operational performance measures by implementing changes to their operational processes.

The MAC performance measures in early 2008 showed 32 percent as the abandoned call rate. By October 2008, the abandoned call rate had decreased to 12 percent (and is currently at 2 percent). They were also able to decrease the length of a call because of their increased knowledge base and their after call work time.

The MAC employees implemented and concentrated to improve their individual (not just team) performance measures to effect the team's improvement.

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The team went through numerous trainings to improve their knowledge base, utilize technology to fine tune their system and implement a split skill pilot to address specific subjects; all of these actions helped the MAC team to improve customer satisfaction and provide "best-in-class" customer service.

The team was able to train volunteers to take certain less complicated calls and found in-

novative ways to improve services within current resources.

#### **District 1 Garage, Department of Public Works**

The District 1 garage answered the call of the Mayor for the city to dramatically reduce the time it takes to fill a pothole and strive for the ultimate goal of a 48 hour turn around time.

The District 1 Garage team work diligently to that end. They utilized the information resulting

in the Six-Sigma study to implement a new process of operation to address potholes.

During the pilot the team was able to reduce the time it takes to fix a pothole by 67 percent.

The team continues to make process improvements to meet the goal and train other district garages to apply the process city-wide. ●

## **IFD Celebrates 150 Years**



*Pictured above is Station 14, 2960 North Kenwood, in the year 1910. The station was opened on October 14th for Hose Wagon 14. This station was torn down in 1971 and the second station 14 was built on the same site.*

2009 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Indianapolis Fire Department and much has changed in the way IFD serves the citizens of Indianapolis.

Long gone are the days of horse drawn pumpers and ladder trucks.

Today's apparatus is highly advanced and features large pump

capacities and ladders that reach up to 110 feet in the air.

Unlike firefighters during the steamer era, who used their beards and mustaches to filter smoke, today's firefighters are equipped with highly specialized breathing equipment.

Firefighter apparel has evolved from rubber coats and alumi-

num helmets to turnout gear designed to ward off extreme heat to protect the firefighters. Helmet designs have also improved.

The men and women who serve on the IFD face society's ever changing environment. The skill and training they are required to have encompasses many more venues than firefighting and EMS - rope rescue, water rescue, hazardous materials, urban search and rescue and extrication just to name a few.

A yearlong celebration is underway and began with the presentation of the IFD commemorative badge in February. The celebration will conclude with a Firefighter's Ball later this year in November. Many events will be open to the public.

Plans are currently

in place to participate in the 500 Festival Parade and a fire department historical parade is being planned for September.

We encourage everyone to join us as we celebrate 150 years of professional fire service to the City of Indianapolis. For more information about the IFD visit <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPS/IFD/Pages/home.aspx> or the Indianapolis Metropolitan Firefighters Museum at <http://www.i416.com> ●



# Public Safety Officers Inducted into 2009 American Red Cross Hall of Fame



The Indianapolis Fire Department and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department are honored to have 13 of their members inducted into this year's 2009 American Red Cross Hall of Fame. The American Red Cross Hall of Fame pays tribute to individuals from the central Indiana community who exem-

plify the spirit of the worldwide Red Cross movement by risking their lives for others.

Seven inductees are from IFD and six are from IMPD. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the event. Firefighters and Police Officers do good things everyday in service to the citizens of the City of Indianapolis. The Department of Public Safety is proud to have their actions, which are above and beyond their normal duty, recognized by such a prestigious community organization.

The seven members of IFD are: Captain James Redd; Lt. Todd Walsh; Engineer Gerald Schneidt; Engineer David Bogemann; Pvt. Marc Korte; Pvt. Dwayne Dixon and Pvt. Brian Todd.

The six members of IMPD are: Officer Madeline Lothermer; Officer Dan Reynolds; Officer Mitchell A. Waters; Officer Adrian S. Aurs; Officer Marlin Sechrist and Officer Timothy S. Blackwell.

## Sponsor the 2009 Red Cross Hall of Fame

The American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis invites organizations and individuals to support the 50th Annual Hall of Fame Awards presented by Conesco. Sponsorship forms are available at [www.indyredcross.org/halloffame](http://www.indyredcross.org/halloffame) or by calling (317) 684-4314.

## 2009 Event Details

### What:

50th Annual Red Cross Hall of Fame Awards

### When:

Thursday, March 19, 2009; 9:45 a.m.

### Where:

Plainfield High School,  
One Red Pride Drive,  
Plainfield

## Mayor Ballard's Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program

### Help us Coordinate Delivery of Services by Registering Online

Through the efforts of Mayor Greg Ballard, the intent of the Ex-Offender Re-Entry initiative is to coordinate delivery of services to previously incarcerated individuals returning to Marion County.

In order to complete this task, we ask that service providers go to Mayor Ballard's [website](http://www.indy.gov/Mayor) and register with us.

Through this registration process we can refer others to you and include you in our reports on service delivery to Marion County.

In addition, if you have suggestions that can enhance our efforts or you would like to invite Khadijah Muhammad, Director of Offender Re-entry to visit your agency or speak at a gathering, please utilize this process as well.

Businesses: there is also a link on Mayor Ballard's [website](http://www.indy.gov/Mayor) for you to register if you have employment opportunities and would like to explore hiring pre-qualified ex-offenders. ●



## Mayor's Night Out Washington Township • March 19



**Citizens are proud of their city, but they live in their neighborhoods.**

**WHO:** Mayor Greg Ballard and City Department Directors/Leaders

**WHAT:** Mayor's Night Out Question and Answer Session

**WHERE:** Broad Ripple HS;  
1115 Broad Ripple Ave.

**WHEN:** March 19, 2009; 6—7 p.m.

For more information, please contact Catherine Moore at 327-5380 or [cmoore2@indygov.org](mailto:cmoore2@indygov.org)

## Mayor Ballard to Turn the Downtown Canal Green

For over 10 years the City of Indianapolis has turned the downtown canal green in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

Mayor Greg Ballard will do the honors of pouring the green dye into the canal during an early morning ceremony on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

The event, sponsored by the Hoosier Lottery will take place at 6:30 a.m. at the corner of Ohio and West Streets and will include special guests and live music. The public is invited to join in the celebration and

breakfast will be served.

One gallon of yellow and nine gallons of blue concentrate are combined to make the green dye which brings the festive spirit to the downtown canal. The environmentally friendly dye is concentrated in the canal's pumps to give the illusion the canal is green when first turned on.

The pumps then distribute the dye in the Ohio Street basin of the canal which will remain green as the city celebrates St. Patrick's Day.

The city's portion of the canal runs seven blocks from West street to south of Ohio Street then north to St. Clair Street and was constructed from 1985 though 1991.

From late 2007 to 2008 the City spent about 300,000 thousand dollars to clean debris and algae from the canal. During that time people could walk in the canal because it had to be drained to facilitate the cleaning. Environmentally friendly chemicals are now routinely applied to keep the algae from growing. ●



*It takes approximately 10 gallons of concentrate (one gallon of yellow and nine gallons of blue) to make the green dye that is used in the downtown canal each year for St. Patrick's Day.*

## Sign up to receive the new **PLAY INDY!** newsletter from Indy Parks!



Indy Parks & Recreation's new e-newsletter is filled with information about current and upcoming events, programs, activities and projects involving your family centers and parks.

Every newsletter delivers an exciting

lineup of fun, safe and engaging activities for the whole family. Indy Parks facilities and properties offer enjoyable recreational opportunities 365 days of the year, from canine companion zones, indoor and outdoor pools, and greenways to family centers, arts programs and golf. Sign up to receive the new Indy Parks e-newsletter to keep up with Indy Parks!

**Meet the staff!** Each newsletter profiles an Indy Parks staff mem-

ber making a difference in the lives of Marion County residents and the environment.

### **Learn about parks!**

Every month features a regional, neighborhood, community or mini park that you will want to check out.

**Stay informed!** Indy Parks brings the parks news to you on a broad variety of topics including:

- Calendar of Events
- After-School Programs
- First Tee Golf
- Arts and Cultural

Activities

- Summer Day Camps
- Winter/Spring, Summer and Fall Fun Guides
- Indianapolis Parks Foundation
- Neighborhood and Community Parks
- Family Centers and Pools
- Summer Kickoff
- Rental Facilities for Family Functions and Corporate Events

Sign up for the PLAY INDY! newsletter at

[www.indyparks.org](http://www.indyparks.org) •

## Indy Parks Honors African-American and Minority Artists



*More than 90 pieces of art filled three galleries at the fourth annual Black Pearls exhibit hosted by Indy Parks.*

Central Indiana African-American and minority artists showcased their work at the Garfield Park Arts Center in February during the fourth annual Black Pearls exhibit.

The celebration of the achievements of local African-

American and minority artists kicked off with an opening reception featuring live jazz and light refreshment. More than 90 pieces of art filled the Arts Center's three galleries.

The festivities spilled into an arts & craft room, where children created their own works of art while parents perused the artwork. Several paintings featured images of President Barack Obama, the first black president of the United States. Artists mingled with visitors as the Steven Weakley Jazz Trio entertained throughout the evening.

The exhibit was free and on display throughout Black History Month. Featured art included airbrush and mixed media, painting, graphic design, drawing, textiles, ceramics, watercolor and photographer.

The Arts Center is open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



*The exhibit kicked off with an opening reception featuring live jazz and light refreshment. Children were able to create their own art while parents perused the galleries.*

Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The Arts Center is located at 2432 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46203, in the heart of Garfield Park. For more information, call (317) 327-PARK or visit

[www.indyparks.org](http://www.indyparks.org) •



## Calendar of Events/Meetings • March 2009

*This calendar represents a general compilation of community events/meetings. For a comprehensive list of meetings in your neighborhood, please visit [www.indy.gov/neighborhoods](http://www.indy.gov/neighborhoods) and click on your Neighborhood Liaison's home page.*

*Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please check with your Neighborhood Liaison to verify meeting details.*

### Monday March 2

#### NESCO Community Policing Committee

Englewood Christian Church; 57 N. Rural St.  
5:30 p.m.

#### Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Assoc.

Immanuel Conf. C; 402 E. Prospect; 6:30 p.m.

#### Ravenswood Neighborhood Assoc.

1788 Hanes; 7 p.m.

#### Irvington Terrace

6040 E. Pleasant Run Pkwy S Dr.; Irvington Community School; 7 p.m.

#### Full Council Meeting

Public Assembly Room, CCB; 7 p.m.

### Tuesday March 3

#### Decatur Township Mayor's Night Out

Decatur Intermediate Learning Center; 5650 Mann Rd.; Question and Answer 6–7 p.m.

#### Far Eastside Weed and Seed Committee Mtg

(Also meets on March 10)

Café, 8902 E. 38th St.; 6 p.m.

#### Christian Park Active Community

Christian Park Reformed Christian Church  
4526 Wentworth; 7 p.m.

#### Devington Community Assoc.

St. Albans Church; 4601 N. Emerson; 6:30 p.m.

#### Herron-Morton Place Neighborhood Assoc.

Joy of All Who Sorrow Church; 1516 N Delaware  
7 p.m.

### Wednesday March 4

#### IMPD NW Task Force

IMPD NW District HQ; 3821 Industrial Blvd.  
6 p.m.

#### 18th Annual ROSE Awards

Indiana Roof Ballroom; 140 W. Washington; 6 p.m.

#### Binford Redevelopment and Growth (BRAG)

Divine Savior Church; 7315 E. 75th St.; 7 p.m.

### Thursday March 5

#### IMPD North District Task Force

College Branch Library; 3 p.m.

#### Warren Township Development Assoc.

975 N Post Rd MSD Warren Admin & Community  
Bldg.; 4 p.m.

#### Ribbon cutting for Southsider Voice Newspaper

3145 Madison Ave.; 5:30 p.m.

#### Riverside Civic League

Riverside Family Center; 6:30 p.m.

#### Gateway Neighborhood Assoc.

School 109; 6150 Gateway Dr.; 6:30 p.m.

#### Nora Community Council

Nora Library; 8625 Guliford; 7 p.m.

#### Greater Garden City Civic Assoc.

5401 W. Washington St.; 7 p.m.

### Monday March 9

#### Mary Rigg Head Start Expansion

1920 W. Morris St.; 7:30 a.m.

#### Woodruff Place Neighborhood Assoc.

Woodruff Place Town Hall; 735 Woodruff Place  
East Drive; 7 p.m.

#### Annual Mtg. of Amber Ridge HOA

IFD 54; 8505 S. Combs Rd.; 7 p.m.

#### Brightwood Concerned Citizens

Brightwood Library; 2435 N. Sherman Dr.; 6 p.m.

### Tuesday March 10

#### St. Clair Place Redevelopment Public Input Mtg.

Thomas D. Gregg School 15; 2302 E. Michigan; 6:30 p.m.

#### Washington Place Neighborhood Group

8400 E. 10th St. Moorhead Elementary Cafeteria; 6:30 p.m.

#### Fletcher Place Neighborhood Assoc.

Fletcher Place Lofts; 410 S. College; 7 p.m.

#### Southern Trails HOA

IFD 54; 8505 S. Combs Rd.; 7 p.m.

#### Far Eastside Neighborhood Assoc.

975 N Post Rd MSD Warren Admin & Community  
Bldg.; 7 p.m.

### Wednesday March 11

#### Pike Township Residents Assoc.

Pike Township Gov't Center; 5665 Lafayette Rd. 7 p.m.

### Thursday March 12

#### Fountain Square Merchants Assoc.

Santorini's; 1417 E. Prospect; 5:30 p.m.

#### IMPD SE Task Force Mtg.

IMPD SE; 1150 S. Shelby St.; 5:30 p.m.

#### Mapleton Fall Creek Neighborhood Assoc.

Phillips Temple AME Church; 210 E. 34th St.; 6:30 p.m.

#### Arsenal Heights Civic Club

Damien Center; 26 N. Arsenal; 6:30 p.m.

#### Rosswood Neighborhood Organization

975 N Post Rd MSD Warren Admin & Community  
Bldg.; 6:30 p.m.

#### DMD Land Use and Dev. Plan for West 30th St. Corridor

Wesley United Methodist Church; 3425 West 30th St.  
7–9 p.m.

### Friday March 13

#### The Indiana Photographic Society presents

'Through the Lens: Beautiful Indiana'

Garfield Park Arts Center; 6–9 p.m.

### Monday March 16

#### Beginning of Severe Weather Week (16-22)

#### Oakhill Civic Assoc.

Douglass Family Center; 1616 E. 25th St.; 6 p.m.

### Tuesday March 17—St. Patrick's Day

#### Greening of the Canal

Corner of Ohio and West Streets; 6:30 a.m.

#### Community Resurrection Partnership

Overcoming Church; 2203 Columbia; 9 a.m.

#### St. Patrick's Day Parade

Begins on Corner of North and Penn. St.; 11:30 a.m.

#### Near West/WESCO

School 63; 1163 N. Belmont; 5:30 p.m.

### Wednesday March 18

#### Concord Business Alliance

Sacred Heart Parish Bldg.; 1125 S. Meridian; 7:30 a.m.

#### Ivy Hills Residents Assoc.

Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 5233 E. 79th St.; 7 p.m.

### Thursday March 19

#### Keystone Business and Community Assoc.

Administration Bldg. State Fair Grounds; 7:30 a.m.

#### Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast

FT Library; 5550 S. Arlington; 7:30 a.m.

#### Phoenix Group

First Baptist Church; 880 Udell; 11 a.m.

#### IMPD NE Task Force Mtg.

IMPD NE District; 3229 N. Shadeland Ave.; 6:30 p.m.

#### Egledale Lafayette Square Area Weed & Seed Mtg

Egledale Public Library; 3325 Lowry Rd.; 6:30 p.m.

#### Washington Township Mayor's Night Out

Broad Ripple High School; 1115 Broad Ripple Ave.

Question and Answer 6–7 p.m.

### Monday March 16

#### Crown Hill Neighborhood Assoc.

Coppin Chapel AME Church; 3201 N. Capitol; 7 p.m.

### Wednesday March 18

#### MIBOR Eastern Division

10501 E. 21st St.; Noon

### Thursday March 19

#### 50th Annual Red Cross Hall of Fame Awards

Plainfield HS; One Red Pride Drive; 9:45 a.m.

### Friday March 20

#### Spring Begins

#### Indy Homeless Connect

Indiana Convention Center; 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

visit [www.chipindy.org](http://www.chipindy.org) for more information

### Saturday March 21

#### Holliday Park 5-mile Trail Run

Holliday Park; 6363 Spring Mill Road; 9:30 a.m.

Visit [www.hollidaypark.org](http://www.hollidaypark.org) or call 317-327-7180

for more information or register online at

[www.tuxbro.com](http://www.tuxbro.com).

### Monday March 23

#### Kennedy King Neighborhood Assoc.

Indy Parks; 601 E. 17th St.; 6 p.m.

#### Decatur Civic Council

5108 S. High School Rd; 7 p.m.

#### Full Council Meeting

Public Assembly Room, CCB; 7 p.m.

### Tuesday March 24

#### Wayne Township Leaders

1200 N. Girls School Rd.; 11 a.m.

#### Lafayette Square Area Coalition Monthly Mtg.

Westview Health Plex; 3660 Guion Rd. 2nd floor;

5:30 p.m.

#### CDD Crime Watch

42nd College Branch Library; 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday March 25

#### Southside Neighborhood Forum hosted by

Greater Southport Business Assn.

Topics: Graffiti and Petty Crime; Southport Community

Bldg.; 6901 Derbyshire; 7 p.m.